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## **MEAP Social Studies Standard Setting Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)**

There are four Performance Levels in social studies:

- (1) Exceeded Michigan Standards
- (2) Met Michigan Standards
- (3) Basic
- (4) Apprentice

The Standard Setting PLDs define in detail what students at each grade and performance level should know and be able to do in relation to the Michigan social studies curriculum framework.

In September 2005, groups of Michigan educators were brought together to develop these PLDs, taking into account both the curriculum framework and the social studies assessments themselves. In January 2006, the PLDs were used by Michigan educators, parents, and community members to determine recommended cut scores between the performance levels. The recommended cut scores were formally adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education in January 2006.

In this document, only the first three levels are defined explicitly. The fourth level (*apprentice*) is defined as not meeting the requirements for the *basic* level.

The PLDs are presented in two ways:

1. Within grade level across performance levels—this presentation shows how performance progresses from one performance level to the next within each grade.
2. Within performance level across grades—this presentation shows how student performance progresses from one grade to another within each performance level.

The Social Studies MEAP given in the Fall in grades 6 and 9 measures the social studies knowledge and skills expected at the end of grades 5 and 8.

**MEAP Social Studies Grade 6 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)**  
**(Addresses Grade 5 Knowledge and Skills)**

<b>Basic (Level 3)</b>	<b>Met (Level 2)</b>	<b>Exceeded (Level 1)</b>
Shows a limited recognition of people and the order of Michigan and U.S. historical events	Places significant people and events in chronological order in Michigan and U.S. History	Shows understanding of the cause and effect relationship between people and events in Michigan and U.S. history
Shows a limited understanding of the major themes of Michigan history and U.S. history	Can identify the major themes of U.S. and Michigan history	Recognizes the connections within the major themes of Michigan and U.S. history
Uses primary sources to demonstrate knowledge of historical events	Uses primary sources to understand conflicting accounts of historical events	Uses primary sources to analyze and interpret conflicting accounts of historical events
Shows knowledge of the five themes of geography	Shows an understanding of the five themes of geography	Recognizes connections between the five themes of geography
Can identify some geographic features of community, state, region, and nation	Can describe the geography of community, state, region, and nation	Applies geographic information to analyze the geography of community, state, region, and nation
Shows understanding of the concept of culture	Shows understanding of and can describe cultural diversity	Uses knowledge of diverse cultures to compare their characteristics
Can identify types of natural and human resources	Can describe types of natural and human resources, their origin, use, and management	Compares and analyzes natural and human resources' effects on our environment
Shows incomplete knowledge of the constitution	Shows a basic knowledge of the constitution and can recognize constitutional principles	Can apply constitutional principles to real circumstances
Can identify that different work is done by different branches of government	Shows knowledge of local, state, and federal governments	Can identify the relationships among local, state, and federal governments
Can identify the rights of a U.S. citizen	Explains the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship	Can apply the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship to daily life
Shows some understanding of basic economic principles	Shows a complete understanding of basic economic principles	Can apply basic economic principles to daily life
Can interpret and apply information from graphs, maps, and charts	Can interpret graphs, maps, and charts and apply relevant information	Can interpret and apply knowledge acquired from complex graphs, maps, and charts
Clearly states and provides incomplete support for a position on a public policy issue	Clearly states and provides adequate support for a position on a public policy issue in an organized fashion	Clearly states a public policy issue, and provides significant support for that position using prior social studies knowledge in an organized fashion

**MEAP Social Studies Grade 9 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)**  
**(Addresses Grade 8 Knowledge and Skills)**

<b>Basic (Level 3)</b>	<b>Met (Level 2)</b>	<b>Exceeded (Level 1)</b>
Can recognize people, places, events, and ideas within a historical context	Recognizes the relationship between people, places, events, and ideas within a historical context	Analyzes the relationship between people, places, events, and ideas within a historical context
Can construct timelines of major events from Michigan and U.S. history	Constructs and describes timelines of major events from Michigan and US history	Constructs, interprets, and describes timelines of major events from Michigan and US history
Can communicate key historical decisions and their impact on the U.S.	Communicates key historical decisions and their impact on the U.S. and major world regions	Evaluates key historical decisions and their impact on the U.S. and major world regions
Can identify that primary and secondary sources help to understand accounts of historical events	Uses primary and secondary sources to show understanding of conflicting accounts of historical events	Uses primary and secondary sources to analyze and interpret conflicting accounts of historical events
Can identify the five themes of geography in major world regions	Describes the relationship between the five themes of geography and major world regions	Analyzes the relationship between the five themes of geography and major world regions
Can identify the geographical characteristics of our state, nation, and major world regions	Describes the geographical characteristics of our state, nation, and major world regions	Compares the geographical characteristics of our state, nation, and major world regions
Can identify some cultural communities in the U.S. and major world regions	Locates and describes cultural communities in the U.S. and major world regions	Locates, describes, and compares cultural communities in the U.S. and major world regions
Describes natural and human resources, and their uses	Describes natural and human resources, and their origin, use, management, and impact on major world regions	Describes the origins of natural and human resources, and evaluates the impact of their use and management on major world regions
Gives examples of government systems around the world	Compares U.S. and world government systems	Evaluates world government systems
Can identify constitutional values and principles	Recognizes and applies constitutional values and principles	Evaluates the application of constitutional values and principles to current issues
Can identify some of the relationships among state, federal, and world governments	Shows understanding of the relationships among state, federal, and world governments	Shows understanding of the relationships among state, federal, and world governments and evaluates their effectiveness
Can identify important historical documents that protect individual rights and responsibilities	Recognizes the connection between important historical documents and our constitutional rights and responsibilities	Analyzes the connection between important historical documents and our constitutional rights and responsibilities
Can explain some important economic principles in a society	Interprets economic principles in a society	Applies economic principles in world societies
Can identify some world economic systems	Compares U.S. and world economic systems	Evaluates world economic systems
Reads and interprets complex graphs, maps, and charts	Interprets complex graphs, maps and charts and applies relevant information	Interprets, analyzes, and synthesizes information from complex graphs, maps, and charts
Clearly states and provides incomplete support for a position on a public policy issue	Clearly states and provides adequate support for a position on a public policy issue in an organized fashion	Clearly states a public policy issue, and provides significant support for that position using prior social studies knowledge in an organized fashion.

**MEAP Social Studies “Met Standards” Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 6 and 9)**  
**(Addresses Grades 5 and 8 Knowledge and Skills)**

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>
Places significant people and events in chronological order in Michigan and U.S. History	Recognizes the relationship between people, places, events, and ideas within an historical context
	Constructs and describes timelines of major events from Michigan and US history
Can identify the major themes of U.S. and Michigan history	Communicates key historical decisions and their impact on the U.S. and major world regions
Uses primary sources to understand conflicting accounts of historical events	Uses primary and secondary sources to show understanding of conflicting accounts of historical events
Shows an understanding of the five themes of geography	Describes the relationship between the five themes of geography and major world regions
Can describe the geography of community, state, region, and nation	Describes the geographical characteristics of our state, nation, and major world regions
Shows understanding of and can describe cultural diversity	Locates and describes cultural communities in the U.S. and major world regions
Can describe types of natural and human resources, their origin, use, and management	Describes natural and human resources, and their origin, use, management, and impact on major world regions
Shows a basic knowledge of the constitution and can recognize constitutional principles	Compares U.S. and world government systems
	Recognizes and applies constitutional values and principles
Shows knowledge of local, state, and federal governments	Shows understanding of the relationship among state, federal, and world governments
Explains the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship	Recognizes the connection between important historical documents and our constitutional rights and responsibilities
Shows a complete understanding of basic economic principles	Interprets economic principles in a society
	Compares U.S. and world economic systems
Can interpret graphs, maps, and charts and apply relevant information	Interprets complex graphs, maps and charts and applies relevant information
Clearly states and provides adequate support for a position on a public policy issue in an organized fashion	Clearly states and provides adequate support for a position on a public policy issue in an organized fashion

**MEAP Social Studies “Exceeded Standards” Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 6 and 9)**  
**(Addresses Grades 5 and 8 Knowledge and Skills)**

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>
Shows understanding of the cause and effect relationship between people and events in Michigan and U.S. history	Analyzes the relationship between people, places, events, and ideas within a historical context
	Constructs, interprets, and describes timelines of major events from Michigan and US history
Recognizes the connections within the major themes of Michigan and U.S. history	Evaluates key historical decisions and their impact on the U.S. and major world regions
Uses primary sources to analyze and interpret conflicting accounts of historical events	Uses primary and secondary sources to analyze and interpret conflicting accounts of historical events
Recognizes connections between the five themes of geography	Analyzes the relationship between the five themes of geography and major world regions
Applies geographic information to analyze the geography of community, state, region, and nation	Compares the geographical characteristics of our state, nation, and major world regions
Uses knowledge of diverse cultures to compare their characteristics	Locates, describes, and compares cultural communities in the US and major world regions
Compares and analyzes natural and human resources’ effects on our environment	Describes the origins of natural and human resources, and evaluates the impact of their use and management on major world regions
Can apply constitutional principles to real circumstances	Evaluates world government systems
	Evaluates the application of constitutional values and principles to current issues
Can identify the relationships among local, state, and federal government	Shows understanding of the relationships among state, federal, and world governments and evaluates their effectiveness
Can apply the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship to daily life	Analyzes the connection between important historical documents and our constitutional rights and responsibilities
Can apply basic economic principles to daily life	Applies economic principles in world societies
	Evaluates world economic systems
Can interpret and apply knowledge acquired from complex graphs, maps, and charts	Interprets, analyzes, and synthesizes information from complex graphs, maps, and charts
Clearly states and provides significant support for a position on a public policy issue in an organized fashion	Clearly states a public policy issue, and provides significant support for that position using prior social studies knowledge in an organized fashion

**MEAP Social Studies “Basic” Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 6 and 9)**  
**(Addresses Grades 5 and 8 Knowledge and Skills)**

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>
Shows a limited recognition of people and the order of Michigan and U.S. historical events	Can recognize people, places, events, and ideas within a historical context
Shows a limited understanding of the major themes of Michigan history and U.S. history	Can construct timelines of major events from Michigan and U.S. history
Uses primary sources to demonstrate knowledge of historical events	Can communicate key historical decisions and their impact on the U.S.
Shows knowledge of the five themes of geography	Can identify that primary and secondary sources help to understand accounts of historical events
Can identify some geographic features of community, state, region, and nation	Can identify the five themes of geography in major world regions
Shows understanding of the concept of culture	Can identify the geographical characteristics of our state, nation, and major world regions
Can identify types of natural and human resources	Can identify some cultural communities in the U.S. and major world regions
Shows incomplete knowledge of the constitution	Describes natural and human resources, and their uses
Can identify that different work is done by different branches of government	Gives examples of government systems around the world
Can identify the rights of a U.S. citizen	Can identify constitutional values and principles
Shows some understanding of basic economic principles	Can identify some of the relationships among state, federal, and world governments
Can interpret and apply information from graphs, maps, and charts	Can identify important historical documents that protect individual rights and responsibilities
Can clearly state and provide incomplete support for a position on a public policy issue	Can explain some important economic principles in a society
	Can identify some world economic systems
	Reads and interprets complex graphs, maps, and charts
	Clearly states and provides incomplete support for a position on a public policy issue